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## INDEX TO THE FLORA OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT.

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THE project of a Local Flora of the Boston District was first taken up by the New England Botanical Club in 1906, and a committee was appointed to collect data and commence the publication of such a flora. Lists of herbaria and previous floras were brought together and after much discussion the form of the reports was settled, and records were collated so that the first report was published in May, 1907, the committee then consisting of Messrs. A. K. Harrison, F. F. Forbes, C. H. Knowlton, and R. A. Ware. Messrs. J. A. Cushman, S. F. Blake and Walter Deane later served as members, the committee finally dropping down to two members in 1914, Messrs. Knowlton and Deane. The technique was so well established by that time that these two completed the work, the last publication coming in August, 1924. The reports are thus scattered through many volumes of RHODORA, forming a total of about 215 pages. It has seemed that an index would be of considerable value to those who have occasion to refer to this flora.

The first reports came before the publication of the seventh edition of Gray's Manual, so the committee purposely skipped from the Gymnosperms to Liliaceae and the following families, returning to the more difficult orders of the Monocotyledons after the publication of the Manual. This is the only deviation from the Manual order. At first the genera also were arranged in Manual order but beginning with the Dicotyledons it seemed easier to follow an alphabetical arrangement for genera and species.

The district covered follows the Massachusetts-New Hampshire state line west to include Groton, thence south, including Ayer, along the Worcester County line, including Southboro, to Bellingham on

the Rhode Island line; thence east, including all of Norfolk County, Easton and the Bridgewater, to Duxbury on the coast. This is a fairly good geographic unit, but it was a long time before adequate data from the southern towns were available. From this area were reported 2030 species, 322 varieties, 45 forms, and 54 hybrids. Of these 788 species, 62 varieties and 4 forms were plants of foreign origin, thus leaving a native flora of 1242 species, 260 varieties and 41 forms.

The introduced plants were identified with great care, and notes on their origin were given when possible. Many of these were brought in wool from the ends of the earth, and were collected by those indefatigable observers, Miss Emily Fletcher and Rev. W. P. Alcott.

There have been numerous changes in nomenclature since the list was started, and of course occasional errors have come to light. Thus *Thalictrum dasycarpum* Fisch. & Lall., RHODORA XVIII, 168, proves to be based on a specimen of the *T. polygamum* group. *Aster polyphyllus* Willd. in RHODORA XXVI, 58, was based on large specimens of the *A. ericoides* complex.

Special credit should be given to Professor A. K. Harrison for his initial help in starting the project, and to Mr. Walter Deane, whose previous experience with the Metropolitan Park Flora proved invaluable and whose kindly hospitality to the committee did much to make the completion of the task possible. The staff of the Gray Herbarium, especially Professor M. L. Fernald, have coöperated at every stage of the work, and much help was received from Dr. B. L. Robinson as editor of RHODORA.

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